

**Small Scale Industries in Rural Areas**

**2160. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:** Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to promote small scale industries in the country particularly in the rural areas during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of small scale industries have been set up so far in the country since April, 1997 till-date district-wise;

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):** (a) and (b) An allocation of Rs. 4304 crores has been made in the Ninth Plan for the promotion and development of the small scale and cottage industries sector. Within this, agro and rural industries have been identified as a thrust area for Government Support in terms of technology and skill upgradation, identification of viable projects and promotion of such industries through a cluster approach. The major programmes and schemes in respect of small and cottage industries that are under implementation, *inter alia*, include setting up of Integrated Infrastructure Development Centres, Scheme for Technology Upgradation, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for self-employment of the educated unemployment youth, Rural Employment Generation Programme, and development of rural clusters through the National Programme for Rural Industrilisation. The implementation of these programmes and schemes has helped strengthen small and cottage industries in the country, resulting in sustained performance in terms of contribution to industrial production, employment generation and export earnings.

(c) No district-wise data are maintained. However, the number of SSI units set up from April, 1997 to March, 2000 is estimated to be 3.68 lakhs.